

From: Repairman Jack
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/5/02 4:06pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

The current Microsoft settlement is inadequate punishment for a company that leverage bute force and illegal tactics to gain control of 95% of the computer market with an inferior product. The notion that making microsoft give away computers does nothing to punish them, it only allows them to market their products to an ever younger and impressionable consumers. Such a settlement only rewards this company and gives it free marketing rights inside schools.

I am part of a worldwide network of computer users that is working on getting and alternative operating system into the market place. Free competition is the backbone of the American way of life. Having a choice of what I will purchase and what I will use is my right as an american. By leveraging their market dominance against hardware manufacturers and other computer software makers, Microsoft controls the computer market. This much is known. There is no question of Microsoft's guilt. Now that they have been found guilty, they want to settle and get off with a slap on the wrist, even a reward for their crimes.

Microsoft should pay for what they have done, and the damage they have inflicted on computer users and companies that have suffered as a result of microsofts crimes.

The DOJ should FORCE Microsoft to "play flairly" with other companies. A fair and just ruling against microsoft should address the following issues:

*MS Office needs to be opened, so that developers and other software makers interested in porting it or understanding the document formats can do so either in form of a source code licence or an allowance to see it, check it and "clone libraries", so that applications on non-Windows OSs can read and write MS Office formats for flawless interaction with Windows users. The control MS has exerted it akin to forcing everyone to use their brand of pen and paper, and making it incomptable with ever other type of pen and paper available. This puts our private information into a box that can only be opened with a MS-brand key.

*The Win32 API needs to be made available (incl. undocumented APIs) so that programs like WINE can be successfully ported to other OS. Almost ever computer program written now can ony be run on MS windows. Microsoft controls our data.

*The MS file system needs to be opened, so that users of programs other than Windows can access their data.

*The ruling must include a "must-carry" rule, so that any OEM Microsoft is supplying Windows with HAS to allow the option of a loading and/or booting an alternative operating system.

*This ruling must carry a competitive impact statement, explaining how MS damaged Be Inc. and other companies with its tactics. It should also say that the current "remedy" the DOJ is suggesting is far too weak and that it doesn't carry all areas.

Only by addressing this issues will Microsoft be trully held accountable for their actions.

Microsoft must be made to understand that they must run their business in a manner consisent with the laws of our country, and that if they want to continue to do business here, they must respect the right of consumers to NOT use MS products if they so choose.

Thank you for your time,
Nathan Babcook
St. Louis, MO